

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA ~~clone~~ molecule encoding a threonine importer ~~from *Corynebacterium glutamicum*~~, wherein said DNA molecule consists of nucleotides 1,772 to 3,025 of the threonine importer is encoded by a continuous DNA sequence from the 1,772nd base to the 3,025th base among DNA sequences with the SEQ. ID. No. 1.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preparing a~~ increasing the yield of threonine produced by ~~[[in]]~~ a threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain comprising
inactivating an endogeneous threonine importer gene, by defecting the threonine importer from a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* strain having a low threonine requirement as compared to a wild strain of *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, wherein the threonine importer gene ~~is encoded by a~~ comprises a continuous DNA sequence from the 1,772nd base to the 3,025th base among DNA sequences with the SEQ. ID. No. 1, thereby increasing the yield of threonine produced by the threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain.

3. (Currently Amended) A threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain prepared by the method as set forth in ~~[[the]]~~ claim 2.

4. (Canceled)

5. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the *Corynebacterium* strain is a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* strain.